

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/090,042

Applicant(s)

WILDER ET AL.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on ____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: ____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. ____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed ____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
3 ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. ____.
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. ____.
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 ☐ Other

Minh-Chau T. Pham
Minh-Chau T. Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior arts discloses a user closable collar for a vacuum cleaner bag comprising an occlusion element attached to the inner panel by weak retention bands of collar blank material and the occlusion element further containing a detachable pivot therein and a partial aperture cut-out, whereby the occlusion element pivots on the detachable pivot from an open position to a closed position.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 7 and 8 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior arts discloses a method of making a user closable collar for a vacuum cleaner bag wherein a partial inner panel has a top and bottom portions and occlusion element attached thereto by weak retention bands of collar material and further containing a detachable pivot point therein and a partial aperture cut-out, whereby in a closed position the partial aperture of the occlusion element and the apertures of the outer panels are in alignment and the apertures of the first and second outer panels are occluded when the user breaks the weak retention bands and pivots the occlusion element upon the pivot point to an open position.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Fesco (3,297,232) discloses a vacuum cleaner filter bag.
- Fesco (3,616,621) discloses a vacuum cleaner filter bag.
- Perea et al (5,772,712) disclose a manually closable vacuum cleaner bag collar.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1605. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (703) 308-1261. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
November 20, 2003